CHAPTER III

BONAPARTE AND TALLEYRAND1

Bonaparte in Switzerland — Arrival at rRastadt — A Royalist Portrait of Him — His Affectation of Simplicity — Reception by the Directory — First Threat of Invading England — Career of Talleyrand — His Relations with Bonaparte — Men and Parties in Paris.

IN the complications of his far-reaching designs, the return of Bonaparte to'Paris was a matter of consequence to him, an affair to be managed with diplomacy and an eye to dramatic effect. To appease the Directory, the insubordinate plenipotentiary explained in his despatches that he had acted as he did because Austria had made herself stronger than ever in the long interval, which was probably true; and that the possibility of further successful warfare had been jeopardized by the early arrival of winter, which had left him no choice in hastening the conclusion. This was not flatly untrue, for Martnont noted in his diary that it was October thirteenth when the first new snow fell on the mountain peaks, and that he had marked his general's surprise at the fact: the treaty was signed on the seventeenth. Nevertheless, the season was later than usual, and the plea of weather was a pretext to hide the negotiator's own purposes. In his rdle as an Italian deliverer,

1 Aside from the archives, national and state, and the Correspondence of Napoleon, official and unofficial publications, together with documents published by Pallain, Vivenot, and Bailleu, the best special authorities are Hiiffer: DerRastadter Congress, andCriste: Rastadt, L'Assassinat des Ministres Francais (original in German). Then follow the memoirs and studies already enumerated, with DesbriSre: Projets de de*barquement aux ties Britanniques.